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## Bhagat Singh's Birth Anniversary

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### Why in News

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28<sup>th</sup> September is the **birth anniversary** of revolutionary freedom fighter **Bhagat Singh**.



### Key Points

- **Born in 1907** in Lyallpur district (now in Pakistan), Bhagat Singh grew up in a Sikh family deeply involved in political activities.  
He belonged to a generation that was to intervene between two decisive phases of the Indian national movement - the phase of the '**Extremism**' of **Lal-Bal-Pal** and the **Gandhian phase of nonviolent mass action**.
- In 1923, Bhagat Singh joined the **National College**, Lahore which was **founded and managed by Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bhai Parmanand**.  
The College was set up as an alternative to the institutions run by the Government, bringing to the **field of education the idea of Swadeshi**.

- In 1924 in Kanpur, he **became a member of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**, started by **Sachindranath Sanyal** a year earlier. The main organiser of the Association was **Chandra Shekhar Azad** and Bhagat Singh became very close to him.
  - It was as a member of the HRA that Bhagat Singh began to take seriously the **philosophy of the Bomb**.
  - **Armed revolution** was understood to be the only weapon with which to fight British imperialism.
  - In 1928, HRA was renamed from **Hindustan Republican Association to Hindustan Socialist Republic Association (HSRA)**.
- In **1925**, Bhagat Singh returned to Lahore and within the next year he and his colleagues started a militant youth organisation called the **Naujawan Bharat Sabha**.
- In April 1926, Bhagat Singh established contact with **Sohan Singh Josh** and through him the '**Kirti Kisan Party**' which brought out the monthly magazine **Kirti** in Punjabi.
 

For the next year Bhagat Singh worked with Josh and **joined the editorial board of Kirti**.
- In 1927, he was first **arrested on charges of association with the Kakori Case** accused for an article written under the pseudonym Vidrohi (Rebel).
- To take revenge for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, **Bhagat Singh and his associates plotted the assassination of James A. Scott**, the Superintendent of Police. However, the revolutionaries **mistakenly killed J.P. Saunders**. The incident is famously known as **Lahore Conspiracy case (1929)**.
 

In 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai had led a procession to protest against the arrival of the **Simon Commission**. The police resorted to a brutal lathi charge, in which Lala Lajpat Rai was severely injured and later succumbed to his injuries.
- **Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt threw a bomb** on 8 April, 1929 in the Central Legislative Assembly, in protest against the passing of two repressive bills, the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Dispute Bill.
  - The **aim**, as their leaflet explained, **was not to kill but to make the deaf hear, and to remind the foreign government of its callous exploitation**.
  - Both Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt **surrendered** thereafter and faced trial so they could further promote their cause. They were awarded life imprisonment for this incident.
- However, Bhagat Singh was **re-arrested for the murder of J.P. Saunders and bomb manufacturing** in the **Lahore Conspiracy case**. He was found guilty in this case and was **hanged on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1931** in Lahore along with Sukhdev and Rajguru.
 

Every year, **March 23** is observed as **Martyrs' Day** as a **tribute to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru**.

**Source: TH**